

REMARKSInformation Disclosure Statement

A Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 are pending in the application. This preliminary amendment amends claims 3 and 7, and adds new claims 11-14. In particular, independent claim 3 has been amended to clarify that “the output port selector selects an output port for a packet from a composite port according to an output port mapping” and that “the output port mapping [is] adjustable.” Similarly, independent claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the trunk is “selected according to an output trunk mapping” and that “the output trunk mapping [is] adjustable.” Support for the amendments to claims 3 and 7 may be found in the specification at least on page 4 lines 7-14 and on page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 2.

New claims 11 and 12 have been added. Claims 11 and 12 depend from independent claim 3. In particular, claim 11 recites a router “wherein the output port mapping is dynamically adjustable to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk.” Support for new claim 11 may be found in the specification at least on page 9, lines 19 through 27. Claim 12 recites a router that “further comprises a table defining plural output port mappings and the output port selector determining the output port within a composite port by table lookup.” Support for new claim 12 may be found in the specification at least on page 4, lines 12-14 and on page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 8.

New claims 13 and 14 have also been added. Claims 13 and 14 depend from independent claim 7. In particular, claim 13 recites a method “wherein the output trunk mapping is dynamically adjustable to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk.” Support for new claim 13 may be found in the specification at least on page 9, lines 19 through 27. Claim 14 recites a method “wherein the trunk is selected by a table lookup.” Support for new claim 14

may be found in the specification at least on page 4, lines 12-14 and on page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 8.

No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1, 3-5, and 7-14 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 

Todd A. Gerety

Registration No. 51,729

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 6/12/03

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTSClaim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

3. (Twice Amended) A network router comprising:
 - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
 - a routing fabric for transfer of data packets between trunk ports; and
 - an output port selector which [dynamically] selects an output port for a packet from a composite port according to an output port mapping, the output port mapping being adjustable [to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk].

7. (Twice Amended) A method of routing packets in a network comprising:
 - identifying a destination of the packets;
 - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination, the trunk being [dynamically] selected according to an output trunk mapping, the output trunk mapping being adjustable [to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk]; and
 - forwarding the packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.